

***Remarks***

Entry of the foregoing amendments and reconsideration of this application are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 24-48 are pending in the application, with claims 24, 31 and 39 being the independent claims.

The outstanding rejections of claims 1-8 and 21-23 are rendered moot as those claims have been canceled.

The Applicant respectfully submits that claims 24-48 are allowable.

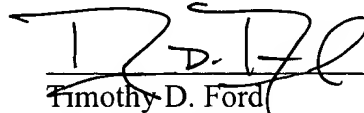
Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. The Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned at the number provided below to arrange a personal interview in advance of a first office action on the merits to facilitate prosecution.

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Respectfully submitted,  
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